



# Miner's aim could be town's gain

BY NICK GRIMM

WELLINGTON could become an operations base for the Commonwealth mine, if the company exploring the site finds the quantities of gold and silver it is seeking.

Perth-based Impact Minerals said it is one step closer to finding a major deposit at the site.

The Commonwealth mine, nearly half an hour away from Wellington, was one of the largest mineral producers in Australia in the early 1900s.

Impact Minerals director Dr Mike Jones said if the company did find what they were looking for, they would love to set up an operations base in Wellington, which would allow the project to focus locally.

He said getting final results will take time.

"It will take about two years to get the full scope of the project, and if it is found to be economically feasible it would take another one-to-two years for all of the mining approvals," Dr Jones said.

Dr Jones said the company had decided to move into the

next phase of the project.

"At the recent AGM and board meeting, it was resolved that we would continue to the next phase of development at the Commonwealth site and begin drilling," he said.

Dr Jones said the company had some very exciting results to date.

Discoveries of significant intercepts of high grade gold and very high grade silver have been reported.

"All the signs are positive and point towards the Com-

monwealth Project potentially being the discovery we've been waiting for.

"Our work over the past two years has shown that the ground we are concentrating on around Silica Hill contains extensive mineralisation.

"The next logical step for us is to find out how big the deposit could be. Last month we tripled the amount of ground around the project and applied for three more exploration licences."

A team of eight drillers are currently rotating shifts 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"We're working really hard to get as much drilling done as we can before Christmas. This is a very exciting time for us but we're also conscious there is a lot of work still to do."